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SECRET EXCISE

[redacted] Prime Minister MacMillan left yesterday for the West Indies and Lord Home goes off tonight to attend the SEATO meeting. Meanwhile telegrams pour in about Laos. MacMillan, after a Cabinet meeting that adjourned at 2:30AM, sent a cooperative letter to President Kennedy.

We had a cable tonight from Audrey and Stephen saying she had had a boy Thursday. This makes a third grandchild, and I am delighted.

March 25, 1961 - Saturday

I ordered a small 2-4 litre Jaguar this morning. At the office there was another flurry of messages concerning Laos. The President has asked MacMillan to meet him at Key West tomorrow night. We had a lunch at the Embassy residence today for the poet, Robert Frost. Tomorrow will be his 87th birthday. We were anticipating it by having a birthday cake and champagne for him. Frost has just come from a tour of the crescent countries. He was especially welcomed in Israel and Greece.

I have seen Mr. Frost off and on many times. He is charming and vain. He seems miffed here because the Queen did not ask to see him. The other guests were: Sir Allen Lane - founder of Penguin - Professor Lawrence Thompson - accompanying Mr. Frost - Miss Margaret Haferd, USIS Librarian - Susan and Frazier Meade.

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March 27, 1961 - Thursday

At the Department this morning, I read reams of position papers, [redacted] B1 B3

Dean Rusk is at Bangkok for the SEATO meeting, where the Allies are expected to approve our Laotian policy. The President met Macmillan at Key West yesterday; according to Chip Bohlen who was present, Kennedy greatly impressed the British by his coolness of judgment and his competence.

Lunched with Bill Foster at the Metropolitan. Kennedy has asked him to take on the task of disarmament negotiator. This is an excellent selection, but it means a long severance by Foster from other activities in which he is deeply engaged. I believe and hope he will accept.

We dined at Ethel Fowler's. The John Coopers, Mike Monroneys, Alice Longworth, Janie McBaine, the Swiss Ambassador, and others were there. [redacted]

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3. We see a need for close consultation on the relation between trade policy and economic development -- especially so that increasing exports from the developing countries can be absorbed. This is another task for OECD.

"C. The Atlantic Community and Western Cooperation

1. We see a need in NATO for a strengthened organization and for more effective consultation.

2. We hope for British support in changing NATO's military priorities so as to give greater emphasis to the conventional build-up. The main burden of increased conventional forces should fall on the French and the Germans, but we would not want the British to feel that they have done everything in the world that they should.

[redacted]

Ambassador Bruce warns that this may be a sensitive subject, and more appropriate to your private conversation with Macmillan -- a majority of us feel that if the talks go well, it may be quite natural to discuss this general topic in the meeting.

3. Both new priorities and a unified deterrent may be made easier by clearer U.S. assurances and guarantees toward Western Europe; conversely, we would like to be confident that if we are attacked, our NATO allies will pitch in.

4. The British are eager for a joint bilateral research and development effort in the military field, and we can assure them that we will cooperate in such bilateral efforts if they can be

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4. It may well be that the British can help us with countries like Portugal, where they have an old and close relationship -- explaining just why it is that we take a view of our own on such a matter as Angola.

"E. East-West Relations.

1. It may be important for you to open this yourself with a review of your approach to the problem and yours ense of the current state of the matter.

2. We should emphasize particularly the hard and general Soviet emphasis upon the notion of a three-part world, each part of which should be represented in all international bodies. This is the thrus of their attack on Hammarskjold; it is the core of their new stand on control in the test ban negotiations; it appears in their views of the ICC, the 14-Power conference and the forum for general disarmament. The United States and the United Kingdom, in our view, should strongly resist this new view and should sustain the basic position that the world is divided into Communist-dominated powers and the rest of us. We would not hesitate to emphasize that the Soviet three-bloc view implies the impossibility of an effective international administrative agency -- whether that be the Secretary General of the UN or the inspector of a controlled disarmament system.

3. On Berlin, we want to give a clear sense of our own firmness [redacted] B1 ED

We should indicate clearly our view that there should be no abandonment whatever of our clear right to maintain our